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Helminth infections, socio-economic status and allergies in Indonesia

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STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift

"Helminth infections, socio-economic status and allergies in Indonesia"

1. There are large differences in the prevalence of allergies not only between rural and urban areas but also between high and low socioeconomic status (SES) groups within an urban area (**this thesis**).
2. The risk factors for sensitization to house dust mite are distinct from those of sensitization to cockroach (**this thesis**).
3. Repeated three-monthly treatment with single dose albendazole over 21 months reduces but does not eliminate helminth infections, nor does it increase skin test reactivity to allergens (**this thesis**).
4. In children from an endemic area for helminth infection, carbohydrate-bearing allergen components are far more often recognized than recombinant allergens (**this thesis**).
5. Administering an anthelmintic treatment to people could help on an individual basis, but could also exacerbate the transmission of these parasites at the population level. (Ezenwa *et al.* Science 2015;347:175-7)
6. Nonheritable influences, particularly microbes, play a major role in driving immune variation compared to heritable factors (Brodin *et al.* Cell 2015;160:37)
7. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence (Altman DG and Bland JM, BMJ 1995;311:485)
8. Gene expression studies can lead to false or grossly exaggerated associations that may stem from the fact that not only the time of the day but also the time of the year has significant effects on gene expression (Dopico *et al.* Nat Commun. 2015;6:7000).
9. The best way to predict the future is to create it (Abraham Lincoln, 12th February 1809 – 15th April 1865)
10. The more East you go in Indonesia the more rural it tends to get, which not only associates with changes in the immunological parameters, but also happens to correlate with the willingness of people to donate blood to study those very associations
11. Lab-based studies rely foremost on reliable scientific execution for success and far less on logistics; for field studies this appears to be exactly the other way around.

Firdaus Hamid
23 September 2015